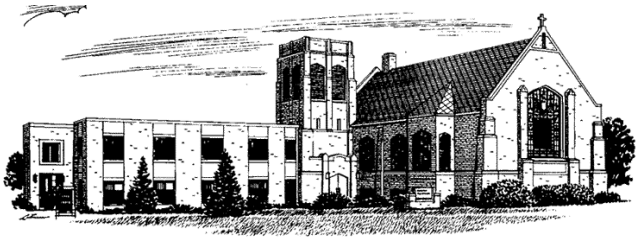


# SARON NEWSLETTER

*Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)*
*510 Main Street*
*St. Joseph, Michigan 49085*

*Website: www.saronlutheran.org*
*Email: info@saronlutheran.org*
*Phone: 269-983-1273*
*Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph*

## May 2017

I write this article on Sunday afternoon, a few hours before my sabbatical of 3-months begins. I write with gratitude for the opportunity given to me. Your prayers and well wishes are deeply felt. I pray that it will also be a time of learning and opportunity for Saron. I take leave knowing that you all are well equipped to do the work that needs to be done in this time and space. Blessings to each of you as we journey this time together even as we are apart, one from another.

*Pastor Joan*

Holy and Almighty God, your word repeatedly reveals your desire for your people to partake in sabbath rest. We pray your blessings on Pastor Joan through her sabbatical journey. Bless all those who will serve this congregation in her absence. Grant her and the people of Saron wholeness of mind, body and spirit. Cause her to grow in your message of radical inclusion and hospitality. Reveal to her anew the beauty of your creation and your amazing grace. Keep her safe in travel. Pour out your Holy Spirit on her, give her your peace and return her to this congregation refreshed and renewed. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. *Amen.*

*The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor*
*Home: 269-983-2475*
*Email:* oleson@saronlutheran.org

*Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,*
*Bell Choir Director*
*Email: roll1mc@gmail.com*
*Irma Gorman, Organist*
*Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant*
*Nanci Fenrick, Financial Secretary*
*Danielle Hohman, Child Care*

**Sundays at Saron:**
***During the School Year:***
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

*Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):*
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

*Saron's Mission:*
*Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!*

# Caring and Sharing

**In Our Prayers –**

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; and **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace.

**Serving in the military:**

**Andy Wedde** – **California**

**Office Hours at Saron**

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Nanci (financial secretary): Weds aft
Call for other times/changes
Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays

*When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.*

Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

## *Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in May 2017*

May 2 - John Hoodlebrink
3 - Brooklyn Huff
4 – Andrew Fortenbacher
5 - Jan Stevens
6 – Charlene Baumgartner
9 - Dennis Lundgren
11 - Kelli (Hoodlebrink) Christman
12 - Alexander Maly
Andrew Stankiewicz
13 - Jenna Henderson
15 - Kathie Bradley
17 – Arla Huelsberg
19 - Monica Freemire
22 - Connor Ashley
23 - Adam Bradley
25 - Lila Roethel
Matthew Bradley
28 - Marlene Cox
30 - Benjamin Frey
31 - David Bradley

## *Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members*

May 2 - Phillip and Kathleen Preston
15 - David and Elizabeth Lundgren
16 - Ted and Ann Dosch
23 - Edward and Mary Alice Brunner
25 - Matthew and Amanda Bradley
30 – Robert and Mary Kynast

**"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"**

*If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you*

**SABBATICAL NEWS**

Pastor's sabbatical begins April 24 and extends through July 23. Supply pastors have been secured, and pastoral care arrangements are in place.

*For Non-Emergencies, contact one of the following:*
*Karen Hinckley 269/326-0688*
*Jan Stevens 269/429-2044*
*Janet Oleson 269/428-7442*
*In an Emergency, contact*
*Karen Hinckley 269/326-0688*
*The Rev. David Slater 269/281-0848*

These numbers are important as during Pastor's sabbatical she will not be available to take phone calls, make calls and visits, or preside at funerals. Other arrangements have been made for each of these occasions, as needed. She will reply to e-mails upon her return. If you have a need, you can e-mail the church office where the e-mail will be checked regularly. If you have any questions, you can ask any council member.

A devotional by Saron was sent out to Saron members. If you did not receive a copy, contact Saron and we will arrange for you to receive a copy. A copy of the books that Pastor is reading on sabbatical is on the table in the narthex. They are there for your perusal and/or borrowing.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the sabbatical planning team including Kerrie Hoodlebrink, and Mary Alice Brunner. They'd be happy to try and answer your questions and receive your thoughts.

**Sabbatical Fund**
Submitted by Mary Alice Brunner

Some members of the congregation have asked about making voluntary contributions to a sabbatical fund for Pastor Oleson, to help with expenses in excess of what is already available in the Continuing Education budget. In response to this request, a Sabbatical Fund has been established and anyone wishing to make voluntary contributions to this fund may do so by writing "Sabbatical Fund" on the memo line of their check.

**New Members**
We welcome to Saron the following new members – Kate Genellie, Scott Kohs, and Don and Carol Hafer. It is good to have each of you as part of the faith community called Saron.

# Worship

**SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS**
As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

**Sunday May 7 –**
*Fourth Sunday of Easter*
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23 (1)
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

**Sunday May 14 –**
*Fifth Sunday of Easter*
*Acts 7:55-60*
*Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16*
*1 Peter 2:2-10*
*John 14:1-14*

**Sunday May 21 –**
*Sixth Sunday of Easter*
Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

**Sunday May 28 –**
*Seventh Sunday of Easter*
Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

**SUMMER BEACH WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**
Once again, Saron members and friends can take advantage of the beauty of Lake Michigan as a setting for informal summer worship. Once a month – June 14, July 19, and August 16 - all Wednesday nights, we will gather at Lion's Park Beach for a picnic supper at 6, followed by worship at 7. The church will provide hot dogs, brats, condiments, chips, and lemonade. Others are invited to bring a dish to share. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!

**Nursery Help Needed**
We always welcome more volunteers for the nursery. If you can help, please sign up at church or let Marilyn Lucy or Krin Jurgensen know of your willingness.

**PRAYER GROUP**
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

***A word from Father Martin***
***In commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation celebrated this year, we hear a word attributed to Father Martin:***

March 26
I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.

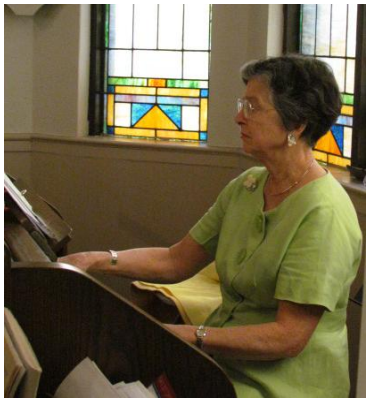
April 2
Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not.

April 9
(The one) who waits until circumstances completely favor his undertaking, will never accomplish anything.

April 16
I have no use for cranks who despise music, because it is a gift of God. Music drives away the Devil and makes people joyful; they forget thereby all wrath, unchastity, arrogance, and the like. Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor.

April 23
A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing.

**A Huge and Heartfelt Thank You**

Thank you to Connie Slater who graciously stepped in and played organ and piano at Saron while Irma Gorman recovered from hand surgery. Irma plans to be back on the bench on April 30.

**Learning**

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**A "Color Fest" comes to Saron July 31-August 3. It will take place from 6:30-8:30 PM; ages Kdg – 5th grade, completed. Invite a friend! For more information contact Kristen Harper or Amanda Bradley**

**Tuesday Mornings at the Beach**

Begin your day with prayer and Bible study at the beach this summer! Bring your travel cup of coffee or tea, a jacket, and your Bible for a gathering on Tuesday mornings at 8:30, beginning May 30. We meet at Lions Park Beach in Saint Joseph. Plan to get your free parking pass (as a St Joseph resident) at City Hall, take a brief walk after parking down Lions Park Drive, arrange to car pool from the church, or pay the $5 daily parking fee. A season pass for $40 is also available. Questions? Contact **Darlene Kiessel (269-313-4061).**

**Wednesday Bible Study**

Join us again in the Fall.

**Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study**

Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church. David Slater leads us in our studies. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a time of fellowship. All men are invited to join us. As the Bible says "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). For more information call Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or David Slater at 269-281-0848.

**Thursday Bible Class**

A study on Paul will continue on Thursdays, at 9:30 a.m. through May 27.

**EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

The Ephesus group meets approximately once each month at various homes. For details of their next gathering, please contact the church office or watch your bulletin for news.

**Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast**

**There will be NO** Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast during the month of May.

**1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Sunday, May 7th, 6:30 in the upstairs lounge, will be our last gathering until October. Come join us and help select the books we will read for our next session. Also, bring any recommendations you have for good summer reads to share with the group.

The Nest, by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney is the book that we'll discuss at this meeting. This novel was an instant New York Times Bestseller, named a best book of 2016 by People, The Washington Post, NPR and Library Reads, to name just a few. This direct quote from Amazon sums it up best: "A warm, funny and acutely perceptive debut novel about four adult siblings and the fate of the shared inheritance that has shaped their choices and their lives." We are guaranteed to have much to say about this book. Come share your opinions with us. Questions? Call Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354) or kcowall@hotmail.com.

"No two people ever read the same book." (Edmund Wilson)

# Support

**A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving**

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

**STOCK DONATIONS**

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, contact our representative, Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Eric Standen or Nanci Fenrick when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Eric Standen or Nanci Fenrick.

# Hospitality

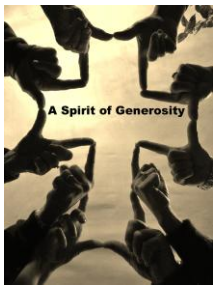
**Blossomtime Fun at Saron!**

Join the fun and watch the parade from Saron's prime viewing location. And beforehand, come to the dining room for a bratwurst, hotdog, and chips. Food will be ready at 11:00 am; the parade starts at 1:00 pm. Friends welcomed!

**Sign Up for Refreshments**

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

**STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE**




***….with glad and generous hearts, praising God …. Acts 2:46c***

***This is a Stewardship Prayer for Generosity from the Archdiocese of Detroit***

Dear Lord,
Teach me to be generous as You have been generous with me. Teach me that all I am and have are gifts from You. And gifts, Lord, are meant to be shared. Show me the joys of generosity. Help me to understand that others, perhaps unknown to me, depend on me for help.

Remind me that my world, my parish, need "Good Samaritans" to heal the wounds of our times. Make me a gift to others in Your name. Amen.

**Pastor has now begun her sabbatical. Many people will give freely of their time and talents to help out as needed over the next three months. We thank you ahead of time for all your continued stewardship of time, talents, and treasure. God's work, Our Hands.**

# Outreach

**Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen-**

On March 23, 134 people arrived at the Soup Kitchen to enjoy a nutritious meal. Thanks to Pastor Oleson, Kathy Cowall, Ruth Ball, Mary Alice Brunner, Lindsay Gaspari and 2 of her students,from Brookview Montessori for preparing the ham dinner. Cookies bakers in March were: Amanda Bradley, Sue Rood, Coanne Hohman, Sarah Burrows, Laura Stark, Amy Nelson, and the Sunday School and Confirmation students.

**LARGE or SMALL** cans of fruit, for use at the Soup Kitchen, are always needed.
Thank you very much, Jan Stevens

**BLOSSOMLAND CROP WALK**

The Crop Walk is Sunday, May 21, beginning at 2:15. It is a 10K walk, but there is also a 1 mile walking loop available. Elizabeth Kunkel and Steve Bell are Saron's recruiters. Please consider walking or sponsoring one of Saron's walkers. This is a great family event! WALK. GIVE. CHANGE the WORLD. Any questions contact Amy Nelson.

Thank you, Outreach

**SPRING CLEANING**

Spring is coming and it is time to CLEAN, you know those drawers and boxes that you were going to look into and get rid of things that you no longer wear or fit into. Now, in all of your "cleaning" if you happen to come across glasses that you no longer use or they have gone out of style, please consider bringing them into Saron and putting them into the Lions Eye Glass box, in the Narthex. They can be reused by someone who needs them! Thank you, St. Joseph Township Lions

**LWR Fair Trade**

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

**BLOOD DRIVE**

Michigan Blood will hold a BLOOD DRIVE at Saron on **MONDAY, JUNE 19 from 2-6pm.** Mark your calendar NOW, to give the GIFT OF LIFE.

Thank you, Keith Stevens and Marilyn Lucy

**FACEBOOK**

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. If you prefer your family member's picture not to be posted, please let us know, so that we can honor that request.

**MEET ME AT THE FREEZER**

Freezer meals are available , in the dining room freezer. If you have a neighbor, friend, relative or yourself who needs a "helping hand " in the kitchen, please take a meal .A visit, phone call, or a meal are a great way to show you care!

"God's Work. Our Hands"

Thank you, Outreach Committee

**ELCA GOOD GIFTS**

During the Lenten season we supported the ministries of the ELCA through Good Gifts. The focus was on the following gifts: water purification tablets, shares of an irrigation canal project and feeding a refugee family for one week. A general donation to ELCA GOOD GIFTS was also much appreciated. Thank you to those who showed support to this ministry. A full accounting will be noted in June's newsletter.

Thank you, Jan Stevens and Amy Nelson - Outreach

# Women of the ELCA

**Deborah Circle**

Deborah Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10th, 2017, at the home of Mary Kynast. The study leader will be Cheryl Houser.

**Saron Church Women Rummage Sale**

On Saturday, June 10, 2017, Saron Church Women will be having a rummage sale in the church dining room. Please save items for the sale. We will let you know later when items may be brought to the church. Thank you.

# Facilities

**HELP NEEDED AFTER SECOND SERVICE**

Please consider helping out once every other month with the important job of securing our building after the second service. The job would be to lock all the outer doors, turn off lights and check a few areas in the building. It does not take long and usually you only are assigned once every other month if we have enough help. This is a job that needs to be done and we cannot expect our Pastor to have that responsibility. If you can help or you would like to find out more about the job please contact Janet or Bill Oleson.

**GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!**

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the church. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saves the church a considerable amount of money. Work includes folding bulletins, preparing the monthly

newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday service, minor maintenance and some light cleaning/vacuuming. We really need some additional helpers, both men and women. It is a good fellowship opportunity as well as helping to maintain God's house. Please consider helping and if you have any questions talk to Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

# Council News

Financial Secretary News

We extend a heart-felt thank you to Denise Cook, who after many years of faithful service as Saron's financial secretary, is stepping down. She is currently training our new financial secretary who is Nanci Fenrick. We welcome Nanci who plans to work in the office on Wednesday afternoons, beginning at approximately 2:30. You can reach Nanci at the office during that time. She is also open to phone calls at 269/845-2595 or an e-mail at **nanci0126@yahoo.com**.

| ***Attendance Record*** | |
|---|---|
| *04/02/2017* | *91* |
| *04/09/2017* | *111* |
| *04/16/2717* | *199* |
| *04/23/2017* | *n/a* |

***Saron's Council Members – 2017***

Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Vice President
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Secretary

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Worship*
Jack Houser (556-0377) - Learning*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Nolan Becker (269-558-3252) – Youth*
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Support*
Tyler Cook (269-930-2810) – Hospitality*
Judi Huff (473-5075) – Hospitality*
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

*SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH*
*510 MAIN STREET*
*ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085*

*Website: www.saronlutheran.org*
*Email:info@saronlutheran.org*

*A Congregation of:*
*The North/West Lower Michigan Synod*
*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*May 2017*

*We're on Facebook! Like us at*
*www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph*

*Summer Worship Schedule Begins*
*May 28, 2017*
*One service only – 9:30 AM*
*NO Summer Learning Hour*

# Saron
# May Volunteer Schedule

| | ***May 7*** ***Fourth Sunday of Easter*** | | ***May 14*** ***Fifth Sunday of Easter*** | | ***May 21*** ***Sixth Sunday of Easter*** | | ***May 28*** ***Seventh Sunday of Easter*** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ***8:30*** | ***11:00*** | **8:30** | **11:00** | **8:30** | **11:00** | ***9:30*** |
| **Assisting minister** | Jan Stevens | Bill Oleson | Marilyn Frey | Bob Kynast | Sue Rood | Dennis Lundgren | Marilyn Frey |
| **Reader/ Intinction** | Sally Schmuhl | Wendy Subrin | Karen Hinckley | Lindsay Gaspari | Jan Stevens | Dan Fortenbacher | Laurel Gacek |
| **Ushers** | Keith Stevens and Jim Manore | Peter and Karen Johnson | Fritz Knauf and Steve Bell | Dave and Sue Bailey | Walt and Sally Schmuhl | David and Emma Young | Eric and Deb Standen |
| **Acolytes** | Carter Hohman | Mia Bradley | Brandon Burrow | Molly Becker | Troy Burrow | Grant Gacek | Jenna & Brooke Henderson |
| **Nursery Assistant** | Allison Rood | Lindsay Gaspari | Fran Richards | Krin Jurgensen | Mary Alice Brunner | Ruth Stelling | Marilyn Lucy |
| **Bldg. close** | | Dennis and Colleen Lundgren | | Brad and Marilyn Frey | | Bob Hopkins | Joseph and Katherine Ulrey & Bill Oleson |
| **Snacks** | | Marilyn Lucy | Deb Standen | | | | |
| **Flowers** | Colleen Lundgren | | Dave and Kathie Bradley | | Kristen Harper | | Bob and Mary Kynast Dave & Kathie Bradley |
| **Mowing** | Weekend of May 4-6 Ed Brunner | | Weekend of May 11-13 Dave Bradley | | Weekend of May 18-20 Brad Frey | | Weekend of May 25-27 Jim Manore |

# May 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Each Sunday with communion by intinction* | **1**<br>11:00 a.m. Prayer Group | **2**<br>6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study | **3**<br>9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers | **4**<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Class<br>6:00 p.m. Bells<br>7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal | **5** | 6<br>NO Men's Devotion/Breakfast<br>11:00a.m. Picnic<br>1:00 p.m. Blossom Parade Starts |
| 7<br>6:30 p.m.1st Sunday Book Discussion Group | **8**<br>11:00 a.m. Prayer Group<br>Newsletter Articles due | **9**<br>6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study | **10**<br>9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers | **11**<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Class<br>6:00 p.m. Bells<br>7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal | **12** | 13 |
| 14<br>Mother's Day | **15**<br>11:00 a.m. Prayer Group<br>7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting | **16**<br>3:30 p.m. Vasa meeting<br>6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study | **17**<br>9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers | **18**<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Class<br>6:00 p.m. Bells<br>7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal | **19** | 20 |
| 21 | **22**<br>11:00 a.m. Prayer Group | **23**<br>6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study | **24**<br>9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers | **25**<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Class<br>9:30 a.m. Soup Kitchen | **26** | 27 |
| 28<br>9:30 a.m. Worship with Communion Starts One Service | **29**<br>Office Closed Memorial Day | **30**<br>8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park<br>6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study | **31**<br>9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers | | | |